

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-27 (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing ischemic damage to tissue being transplanted into a subject, which comprises contacting the cells of the tissue ex vivo with a nucleic acid comprising the polynucleotide sequence 5'-CTTGGCCGCTGCCAT-3' (SEQ. ID. NO: 1) prior to the tissue's transplantation into the subject, wherein the nucleic acid ~~that~~ inhibits Early Growth Response Factor-1 (Egr-1) expression in the cells of the tissue ex vivo prior to the tissue's transplantation into the subject.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a polynucleotide sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence of Early Growth Response Factor-1-encoding mRNA.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the tissue is vascular tissue.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the

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tissue is part of a lung, a heart, a kidney, a vein, an artery, a stomach, a colon, a liver, skin, an eye, a pancreas, a finger, a brain, a toe, or a limb.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the tissue has been subjected to reduced or interrupted blood flow.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the ischemic damage to the tissue comprises cell death, abnormal cell function, abnormal cell growth, or an inability of the cell to maintain normal function.
36. (Canceled)